

COMMUNITY FOCUS

MAY 2006



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL SAANICH

GREETINGS FROM CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL

It is a pleasure to watch spring unfold across the District, as we get ready for another busy season of farming activities, markets, outdoor recreation and, of course, the fall fair, which showcases our local abundance so magnificently.

Your new Council has been busy since the fall election and one of our first major tasks was taking a look at the District's Strategic Plan, which serves as a blueprint for our work over the next three years. We also held the second Community to Community Forum with representatives from Tsartlip and Tsawout First Nation Councils. This ongoing dialogue is very valuable and we appreciate the time all participants gave so we could come together in this informal atmosphere.

It is our aim to work toward continued stability in the District and to ensure our quality of life remains consistent and that the services we have all come to expect are there when we need them.

We are also participating in some interesting new projects, which are described in this issue of Community Focus. From energy efficiency to active living, we invite you to check them out.

We wish you a spring and summer season of abundance and outdoor fun. Visit a local park or beach access; cycle, ride or walk the trails and take advantage of all the wonderful events and amenities our District has to offer.

CENTRAL SAANICH COUNCIL APPROVES SECONDARY SUITES BYLAW

Council has given final reading to the bylaw that would allow secondary suites in Central Saanich. Under the bylaw amendment, secondary suites will be regulated and permitted under certain conditions.

The bylaw has been in the works for some time and a public hearing was held March 8 to gather input from local residents.

These are the conditions under which secondary suites will be allowed in Central Saanich: A secondary suite may be permitted within a single-family residence in the A-1, A-2, RE-1, RE-2, RE-3, RE-4, R-1, R-1M, R-2 and R-1S zones within these regulations:

- Secondary suites shall be permitted in the R-2 zone, but not if a duplex exists on the property
- Either the main dwelling or the secondary suite must be owner-occupied
- 780 m² (8400 sq. ft.) is the minimum lot size for a dwelling containing a secondary suite
- An additional parking space is to be provided on the property for the use of the occupants of the secondary suite
- A building permit for construction of the secondary suite will be required to ensure compliance with the B.C. Building Code along with a statutory declaration to confirm owner occupancy of the suite or main dwelling unit

Note: A full copy of the bylaw is posted on the District's website at www.centrialsaanich.ca or call the Planning Department for more information at 544-4209.

DISTRICT PUTS TEETH INTO DOG CONTROL

"Man's best friend" hasn't been too friendly to horseback riders using trails in Centennial Park. Prompted by reports of two attacks by uncontrolled dogs, District Council will install warning signs and request more enforcement.

In December two horsewomen reported that off-leash dogs had attacked their mounts. In one case, a dog drew blood when it slashed the horse's neck; in the other a pack of small dogs harassed a horse.

Council will ask the CRD bylaw enforcement officers to pay special attention to Centennial Park and will ask veterinarians to post signs, warning dog owners of the need to keep their animals on a leash around horses. Signs will be posted in Centennial Park.

We very much appreciate the cooperation of all dog owners in helping ensure our parks are safe for all users.

NEW VOLUNTEERS ON BOARD

Central Saanich wouldn't be the vibrant place it is without the volunteers who help out on civic committees, boards and commissions.

- On the Peninsula Recreation Commission **Carl Jensen** is a new appointee to the Commission.
- The Saanich Peninsula Water Commission and Wastewater Committee welcomes **Larry Sluggett**.
- Five members have been appointed to The Advisory Planning Commission: **David Boag, Peter Parsons** and **Kryn Zedel** are returning members while **Roni Anderson** and **Paul Sam** are new appointees.
- Central Saanich Heritage Commission welcomes **John Creviston, Sylvia Olsen** and **Brian Wildman**. **Sue Stroud** is reappointed.
- Three members have been appointed to The Board of Variance: new appointee **Bob Viggers** and returning members, **David Marlor** and **Elaine Hodgson**.

GET MOVING, COUNCIL URGES!

What's your favorite recreational activity? Is it jogging, going to the gym, hiking or roller-blading?

Whatever is taking you off the couch, you better do more of it, because the Central Saanich Council has committed its citizens and its employees to a 20 per cent increase in physical activity by 2010 — the year the Winter Olympic Games come to B.C.

In a joint initiative coordinated by the Peninsula Recreation Commission, Council has moved to join the program, run by 2010 Legacies Now and the B.C. Recreation and Parks Association.

The idea is to promote healthy lifestyles and build healthy communities. Central Saanich will get toolkits, workshops, data collection to measure success and awards and prizes for participants. Stay tuned and get moving.

EROSION CONTROL AT SAANICHTON BAY PARK

Area residents in the Turgoose Point area off Ferguson Rd. can breathe a bit easier now that steps have been taken to help control water erosion along the perimeter of Saanichton Bay Park. A new 300-metre stacked rock wall will keep the waves at bay and stabilize the bank. A number of plantings behind the wall will also help keep erosion in check.

SECOND COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM BRINGS THREE COUNCILS TOGETHER

As a follow-up to last year's inaugural Community to Community Forum, Central Saanich Council met on March 28 and 30 with representatives from Tsartlip and Tsawout First Nation Councils. This second forum allowed the Councils to continue to build their relationship and work on areas of mutual interest.

At the first forum, held February 8 and 9, 2005, participants agreed overwhelmingly on the need for improved communication, greater awareness and understanding, increased cooperation and collaboration and closer community ties and relations. This second opportunity to come together helped forge stronger ties and discuss ways we can continue to enjoy this area we all call home. A range of topics was discussed including how to continue communication and collaboration among the three Councils.

Funding for the Forum and in-kind services were provided by the Union of B.C. Municipalities, the District, and the Tsawout and Tsartlip First Nations.

GRANTS HELP SAVE ENERGY

Central Saanich homeowners can get paid to save energy, save money and save the planet. Central Saanich is one municipality in B.C. where homeowners undertaking energy efficiency home renovations will be able to receive matching funding on EnerGuide for Houses grants, up to a maximum of \$750. This provincial program, named the Energy Savings Plan, will provide matching grants on a first-come-first-serve basis until March 31, 2007.

Financial support for energy efficiency efforts for Central Saanich homeowners doesn't stop there. Eligible residents can also get assistance from BC Hydro, Terasen Gas, and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Additional incentives are available for eligible low-income homeowners.

Saving energy and saving money is an easy process and it all begins with a three-hour home visit from a certified energy advisor who checks windows, doors, heating systems, insulation, weather sealing and finishes with a blower door test to measure how much heat and how much money is escaping from your home. The energy efficiency of the building is graded from one to 100 and the owner will be provided with a list of recommended changes. The homeowner can then choose which energy efficient renovations they wish to make.

The fee for the initial EnerGuide for Houses visit is typically \$149 for an average size house which is more than covered by the potential energy savings in energy costs and increased comfort of your home. Your certified energy advisor will assist homeowners with the grant application process and will direct the applicant to other sources of assistance.

If you are interested in participating in the provincial Energy Savings Plan pilot program or would like more information, please call 1-877-658-7878 or check online at www.saveenergynow.ca

For more information on the federal EnerGuide for Houses program and for a list of certified energy advisors in the area, please call 1-800-387-2000 or visit Natural Resources Canada – Office of Energy Efficiency online at www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE GETS READY FOR FACELIFT

Sometime this summer, the former West Saanich School, at 7130 West Saanich Rd., will emerge in a bright new coat of paint, Hastings Red. It's one of just 35 paint colours that were available in B.C. in 1908, when the building first opened.

Central Saanich Council recently approved \$15,200 to continue rehabilitation work begun in 2005 on the almost century-old building. There will be new gutters and downspouts, seismic upgrading and re-siding. When the seismic upgrading has been completed and the weather is right, the fir siding will be installed.

The building served as the West Saanich School for almost 45 years until Brentwood Elementary School opened in 1952. In 1959 it became the Scout and Guide Hall. Its interior is virtually unchanged, according to Brentwood Bay Old School Hall Society President, Sue Myerscough. Because so much of the Hall is original the District is hoping to receive another grant from the Heritage Legacy Fund of B.C.

The Society operates the facility as a community hall, primarily for local youth. Donations to help restore this designated heritage building would be gratefully accepted.

Anyone interested may call Sue at 652-5775 or Bonnie McKenzie, Manager of Community Services at 544-4219.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE CENTRAL SAANICH BRANCH LIBRARY

There is something for everyone at the Central Saanich Public Library.

- Internet and word processing is available on four computer terminals. Wireless access is available for those with their own laptops.
- The library joins the Brentwood Bay festival in Pioneer Park on June 3. There will be ongoing demonstrations of the library website, the new catalogue, and the extensive online databases. Children are invited for family story time, with prizes for all ages.
- Summer Reading Club 2006 features the theme of Extreme Reading between June 29 and September 4. The Reading Buddies' camp offers opportunities for teens to work one-on-one with young readers.
- Sign up for a new session of computer education classes in September. Learn how to surf the net and search online electronic databases.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION GUIDES FUTURE WORK

Central Saanich's new Council held a full-day planning session on Saturday, February 18 to review and update the District's Strategic Plan, which will guide municipal work over the next three years. Council, senior staff and representatives from the Central Saanich Police Board and police services put their heads together to update and, in some cases, revise the plan's goals and objectives.

The vision for the strategic plan is to provide fair, effective and responsive leadership.

Eight strategic directions, under which District programs and projects are described, guide the District's work:

1

Wise financial management

2

Stable land use planning and regulation

3

Constructive community building

4

Appropriate economic development

5

Solid infrastructure and resources

6

Responsible stewardship of our environment

7

A safe, healthy community

8

Corporate maintenance

Central Saanich Branch Library
www.gvpl.ca
1209 Clarke Road 652-2013

Branch hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 am-9:00 pm, Wednesday 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Friday & Saturday 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Sunday 1:00-5:00 pm (October to April))

NO MORE GARDEN WASTE ALLOWED IN THE GARBAGE

Central Saanich gardeners may no longer put their yard waste in with garbage for pickup or disposal at the Hartland landfill site. Starting June 1, all garden waste must be separated for composting. According to the CRD, the ban will extend the life of the landfill and save a resource that can be beneficially used for composting, topsoil production and farming.

Last year, garden waste accounted for an estimated 8,300 tonnes of refuse at Hartland landfill. The CRD points out that there are many alternatives to putting yard and garden waste in the garbage. You can compost it in your backyard composter, take the materials to a drop-off depot or arrange for pick-up by a collection service.

Hartland will accept grass clippings, leaves, other organic yard waste, tree branches and brush less than 75 mm (3 inches) in diameter for a minimum charge of \$7. The material must be physically separated and clearly distinguishable from garbage and recyclables. Soil and food waste are not accepted. CRD Bylaw Enforcement officers will issue recycling information notices for six months after the ban begins June 1. Thereafter tickets will be issued and offenders face a \$100 fine. The facility is at 1 Hartland Ave. (360-3030) and is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 7 am to 2 pm.

For information about backyard composting, you can call the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre at 386-9676 or go to www.compost.bc.ca. For more information on the garden waste ban, go to <http://crd.bc.ca/es/yardmaterialsban.htm> There are several private services in Central Saanich that will accept and/or pick up yard and garden waste. Call them for times and fees.

DL's Recycling Centre
6844 Oldfield Rd. 544-3103

Ron's Disposal Inc.
6654 Butler Cres. 652-6242

Pan-Insula Disposal
(pick up service
by contract only) 544-1466

**Peninsula Landscape
Supplies Ltd, 2070**
Keating Cross Rd. 952-2614

For commercial size loads:
Michell Brothers Farm
652-1939

Vantreight Farms
652-7777

CLICK ON WWW.CENTRALSAANICH.CA TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST DISTRICT NEWS!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Bowls Club Ready For Action Get out your white summer clothes: the Central Saanich Lawn Bowls Club is looking for new members. The club promises coaching for newbies who can use club bowls in their novice year. The clubhouse is at 1800 Hovey Rd. in Centennial Park. For more information, call Pat or Ron Tranter at 652-5822.

Council Meetings Schedule

Regular Council Meetings
7 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month.
Regular Committee meetings
7 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of the month. The public is welcome to attend Council and committee meetings. An agenda package is available on the Friday before each meeting.

Museum Operating Hours

Central Saanich Volunteer Firefighters Historical Museum
Open for tours the last Saturday of every month from 1 to 4 p.m. 1901 Mount Newton Cross Rd., Saanichton.

Heritage Acres
Open daily October 1 – May 31, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon; June 1 – September 30, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. 7321 Lochside Dr., Saanichton.

Saanich Pioneer Museum
Open every Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon – 4 p.m. Call 658-8347 or 656-2471 to arrange tours for other times. 7910 East Saanich Rd., Saanichton.

Visit the Central Saanich Senior Citizens' Centre

There's a lot going on at the Central Saanich Senior Citizens' Centre, 1229 Clarke Rd., Brentwood Bay. For more information call 652-4611.

Council's Town Hall Meeting May 17

Come speak your mind May 17 at 7 p.m. at the Central Saanich Senior Citizens' Centre, Lower Level, 1229 Clarke Rd., Brentwood Bay

Brentwood Bay Festival June 3

Annual community festival at Pioneer Park with parade, food, music and lots of other festivities.

Father's Day Fair at Heritage Acres June 17 - 18

Treat dad to the popular annual Father's Day weekend event, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., 7321 Lochside Dr. Admission is \$6 per person, kids are free. Call 652-5522 for more information.

Music In The Park is summer magic

Settle in for a musical treat Wednesday evenings in July and August, 6:30 – 9 p.m. in Brentwood Bay's Pioneer Park.

Central Saanich Days August 5, 6 & 7

Enjoy fun-filled activities over the B.C. Day long weekend at Centennial Park.

138th Saanich Fair September 2 - 4

It's a grand tradition. Don't miss B.C.'s oldest fall fair over the Labour Day weekend at the Saanich Fairgrounds, 1528 Stelly's Cross Rd.

Peninsula Country Market Opens June 17

This open-air Saturday market at the Saanich Fairgrounds, 1528 Stelly's Cross Rd., offers fresh produce, preserves, arts and crafts, and more, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Live music is on tap from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

1903 Mount Newton Cross Road
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9
Tel: 652-4444 Fax: 652-0135
Email: municipalhall@csaanich.ca Website: www.centralsaanich.ca

COUNCIL

Mayor Jack Mar	Chair of Municipal Council & Central Saanich Police Board	652-8449
Councillors		
Alastair Bryson	Public Works & Transportation Committee	544-0668
John Garrison	Community & Protective Services Committee	652-5113
Christopher Graham	Administration & Finance Committee	652-2828
Zeb King	Water & Waste Management Committee	652-4642
(Municipal Hall office hours Monday 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.)		
Susan Mason	Parks & Facilities Committee	652-0783
Robert Thompson	Planning & Development Committee	652-4691

Visit www.centralsaanich.ca for additional committee, commission and board positions.

MUNICIPAL STAFF

Gary C. Nason	Administrator	544-4202
Trish Flanders	Municipal Clerk	544-4202
Nirmal Bhattacharya	Municipal Engineer	544-4210
Hope V. Burns	Director of Planning and Building Services	544-4209
Bonnie McKenzie	Manager of Community Services	544-4218
Ron French	Fire Chief	544-4227
Paul Hames	Chief Constable	652-4441

OTHER MUNICIPAL CONTACTS

General Information/Mayor's Office	652-4444
Building Inspections/Bylaw Enforcement	544-4217
Property Taxes/Accounts Payable	544-4205
Water/Sewer Billing	544-4206
Park Use Reservation	544-4218
Municipal Yard/Public Works – 1703 Keating Cross Road	
Public Services & Parks Maintenance	544-4224
After Hours Emergency	652-4441

GET IN TOUCH WITH MAYOR & COUNCIL

We'd like to hear from you if you have ideas, opinions or thoughts to share. Letters addressed to Mayor Jack Mar and Council are included in the Council meeting agenda. You may also speak to your letter at the meeting. Send your letter by 12 noon on the Wednesday before a Council meeting. You can drop off your letter to the Municipal Hall, fax it to 652-0135 or email it to: municipalhall@csaanich.ca

CALL OR SEND US AN EMAIL

You're also welcome to call or email Councillors directly regarding other District issues. See the adjacent column for phone numbers or send an email to: firstname.lastname@csaanich.ca

CRD ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE

The CRD provides animal control and pound-keeping services for the District. Here are some handy numbers to call if you have any concerns regarding dogs: **CRD Animal Control: 478-0624 • CRD Animal Shelter: 658-5745**

BRENTWOOD BAY – MILL BAY FERRY SCHEDULE

Enjoy the most beautiful shortcut on Vancouver Island!
Discount tickets (30% savings) available at Thrifty Foods and Payless gas stations.

Crossing Time: 25 min. Fares are payable in cash or travellers' cheques only. Commuter tickets are available.

Leave Brentwood Bay	Leave Mill Bay
* 7:30 am	2:25 pm
8:40 am	3:35 pm
9:50 am	4:45 pm
11:00 am	5:55 pm
1:15 pm	
	* 8:05 am
	9:15 am
	10:25 am
	11:35 am
	1:50 pm
	3:00 pm
	4:10 pm
	5:20 pm
	6:30 pm

* DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS